

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

- A digital image processing method for locating eyes and mouth in a digital face image. The method includes the steps of detecting iris colored pixels in the digital face image; grouping the iris colored pixels into clusters;
- 5 detecting eye positions using the iris colored pixels; identifying salient pixels relating to a facial feature in the digital face image; generating a signature curve using the salient pixels; and using the signature curve and the eye positions to locate a mouth position. In a preferred embodiment, a summation of squared difference method is used to detect the eye positions. In another preferred
- 10 embodiment, the eyes and mouth positions are validated using statistics.